



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/733,793

12/10/2003

Richard F. Dominach

KIRU-0028

8216

7590

04/25/2008

Ashok Tenicha
Of Counsel, Lipton, Weinberger & Husick
38 Greenleigh Drive
Sewell, NJ 08080

EXAMINER

RIDER, JUSTIN W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/25/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/733,793	Applicant(s) DOMINACH ET AL.	
	Examiner JUSTIN W. RIDER	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7,8 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,7,8 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07 March 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 7-8, 11 and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by **Lai et al. (USPN 6,006,183)** referred to as **Lai** hereinafter in view of **Duan et al. (US Patent No. 6,223,150)** referred to as **Duan** hereinafter.

Claims 1 and 11: **Lai** discloses a system and method for speech recognition disambiguation using one of voice mode interaction (Figure 2, 'Acoustic Signal' input), visual mode interaction (Figure 2, **105**, 'Display words with confidence level indicated'), or a combination of voice and visual mode interaction with an application, comprising:

i. a speech recognition component that receives recorded audio or speech input (col. 3, lines 20-22) and generates:

Art Unit: 2626

ii. one or more tokens (*words*) corresponding to the speech input (col. 3, lines 25-30, *'The recognition function (190) translates the acoustic signal in to text, i.e. one or more words, '*); and

iii. for each of the one or more tokens, a confidence value indicative of the likelihood that a given token correctly represents the speech input (col. 3, lines 29-30, *'each word is assigned a confidence level, '*);

iv. a selection component that identifies, according to a selection algorithm, which two or more tokens are to be presented to a user as alternatives, in which said alternatives are words or tokens (FIG. 1, 'word 1', 'word 2', 'word 3'; col. 3, lines 45-50, *the processes described select pairs and code them based on both preset and user parameters.*);

v. one or more disambiguation components that present the alternatives to the user in visual mode (Figure 2, **105**, *'Display words with confidence level indicated'*); and

vi. an output interface that presents the selected alternative to an application as input (col. 3, lines 60-64, *'the pairs are then displayed on an output device (105), '*).

However, wherein **Lai** discloses presenting items to a user as well as allowing a user to interact with the system, both through either voice or visual means, **Lai** fails to specifically disclose wherein a plurality of alternatives are presented to a user for selection.

In an analogous art, **Duan** discloses providing a user with at least two possible token or word disambiguation alternatives, of which the user is able to select the most suitable alternative (Figs. 13-15; col. 17, lines 19-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one possessing ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of **Duan** in the system of **Lai** because it allows a user to input natural, fluent speech with no need for the user to possess specialized linguistic

knowledge, no need for the user to carry out tedious or difficult operations, and no need for the user to memorize any key-phrases to the system to recognize (col. 7, line 58 - col. 8, line 14).

Claim 4: **Lai** discloses a system as per claim 1 above, wherein the one or more disambiguation components perform said interaction by presenting the user with alternatives in a visual mode (col. 3, lines 60-64), and by receiving the user's selection in a visual mode (col. 4, lines 11-15, *'The graphical user application (150) may accept information from the user control (140) to control the threshold...'*).

Claim 7: **Lai** discloses a system as per claim 1 above, wherein the selection component filters the one or more tokens (*words*) according to a set of parameters (col. 3, lines 36-39).

Claim 8: **Lai** discloses a system as per claim 7 above, wherein the set of parameters is user specified (col. 3, lines 36-39).

Claim 14: **Lai** discloses a system as per claim 11 above wherein the interaction comprises the user selecting from among the plural alternatives using visual input (col. 3, lines 60-64, *represented by a visual display interface that allows the user to interact with the system.*).

4. Claims 5 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Lai** in view of **Haddock et al. (USPN 5,265,014)** referred to as **Haddock** hereinafter.

Claim 5: **Lai** discloses a system as per claim 4 above wherein alternatives are presented to the user in a visual form (col. 3, lines 60-64, *represented by a visual display interface that allows the user to interact with the system.*), however failing to, but **Haddock** does, disclose allow the user to select from among the alternatives using both a visual input as well as a voice

Art Unit: 2626

input (col. 3, lines 13-15, '*Similarly, a touch screen, speech recognition apparatus, or other pointer...may be used to receive the referential input.*').

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of **Haddock** in the system of **Lai** because it has a user interface that facilitates natural language communication between a user and a computer database by providing means for a user to remove a referential (*input*) ambiguity by pointing to a displayed textual reference (col. 2, lines 54-59).

Claim 12: **Lai**, in view of **Duan** discloses a system as per claim 11 above wherein alternatives are presented to the user in a visual form (col. 3, lines 60-64, *represented by a visual display interface that allows the user to interact with the system.*), however failing to, but **Haddock** does, disclose allow the user to select from among the alternatives using both a visual input as well as a voice input (col. 3, lines 13-15, '*Similarly, a touch screen, speech recognition apparatus, or other pointer...may be used to receive the referential input.*').

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of **Haddock** in the system of **Lai**, in view of **Duan** because of the reasons outlined above.

Claim 13: **Lai**, in view of **Duan** discloses a system as per claim 12 above in which alternative forms of a user input are presented, however failing to, but **Haddock** does, specifically disclose wherein a user selects from a plurality of presented alternatives in order to disambiguate a natural language input to a computer system (Abstract; col. 3, lines 24-28).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include the teachings of **Haddock** in the system of **Lai**, in view of **Duan** because of the reasons outlined above.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN W. RIDER whose telephone number is (571)270-1068. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on (571) 272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. W. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 2626
23 April 2008
/David R Hudspeth/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2626